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PART II.

OFFICIAL PAPERS.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE GOVERNMENT OF HIS HIGHNESS THE MAHARAJA OF MYSORE.

Food Situation for the week ending 21st February 1920.

Brief abstract of the special reports regarding the Food Situation for the week ending 21st February 1920.

Bangalore City.—During the week under report, 176 carts of ragi and 35 carts of paddy came into the bazaar as against 251 carts of ragi and 35 carts of paddy in the previous week.

The price of ragi ranged from Rs. 80 to Rs. 99 per cart during the week against Rs. 78 to Rs. 106 per cart in the previous week.

There is sufficient stock of rice and ragi in the bazaar for consumers to buy.

The Municipal Depot and the three Test Depots are selling to the poor Delta rice and broken rice, at 4¾ seers and 6½ seers a rupee respectively. The importers are also selling Delta rice to the public.

Mysore City.—No change in the situation.

Bangalore District.—There was no rain during the week. The standing crops of sugar-cane and *Vaisakhi* paddy are in good condition. Threshing of ragi and horse gram is going on. The outturn of togari, avare and horse gram is somewhat poor.

The prices are still high and more or less stationary. Local rice is selling at 3½ to 4 seers a rupee and Delta rice at 4½ seers. Ragi is selling at 6½ to 8 seers and horse gram at the same price.

The markets are still somewhat poorly supplied, but there is sufficient to tide over the present needs. The Co-operative Societies have largely taken up the sale of Burma and Delta rice, but there is not sufficient stock to last more than a week or ten days. Some of the Societies are reported to be without rice. It will help to steady the situation if more outside rice can be placed in the market or if a large stock is kept at the Central Depot to be drawn upon by the Societies to replenish their stock.

Mysore District.—There is no change.

Prices continue to remain high.

Tumkur District.—There is no material change in the situation. Price of ragi ranges from Rs. 85 to 92 per cart-load of 640 seers and that of paddy between Rs. 65 to Rs. 80. Sale of Burma rice is being continued in the Depots at Gubbi, Tiptur, Turuvekere, Tumkur and Maddagiri. An indent for a further supply of 440 pallas of Burma rice has been sent to the Food Controller.

Kolar District.—A fresh consignment of 100 tons of Burma rice is expected to arrive very shortly at Bowringpet. This, when arrived, will be distributed among the taluks, where rice is most needed.

Out of the January allotment, a quantity of 400 tons of Burma rice has been promised for this district by the Food Controller and Director of Civil Supplies. An early import of this quantity may to a certain extent bring down the prices of local rice in the market, which still continue to rule high.

Hassan District.—The *santhes* were fairly well supplied with food grains. Ragi is not so freely coming into the market as rice in the Hassan and Hole-Narsipur Taluks. It is reported that paddy and rice are being exported from the santhes in the district to Bangalore and other places in the State.

Standing crops, *viz.*, *Kar* paddy and sugar-cane are in a good condition.

Prices still continue to be high. It is reported that prices of dhal and other pulses, cocoanut, sugar, jaggery, etc., are rising.

The prospects of the season are generally good for the present.

Shimoga District.—No change in the situation.

Kadur District.—Paddy is being harvested in Narasimharajapura and the yield is estimated at 12 annas. Wheat is being harvested in the Tarikere Taluk.

From the reports received from the various taluks, it is learnt that the markets were well supplied, but the prices continue to be high.

Rice is reported to have been sold at 5½ seers and ragi at 7½ seers a rupee at Chikmagalur. At Koppa rice is reported to have been sold at 5¾ seers as against 6 seers a rupee in the previous week. There is no appreciable change in the prices in the other taluks.

During the week there was no rainfall in any of the taluks. No anxiety exists anywhere in the district with regard to the supply of food stuffs.

Chitaldrug District.—No rainfall during the week. The food situation remains unchanged. The prices of food grains have been stationary. Arrangements have been made to import Burma rice to Davangere, Hosdurga and Molakalmuru.

General (By Food Controller).—There was no rain during the week in any part of the State. The markets are reported to have been well supplied in all the districts, except Bangalore, where the Deputy Commissioner states they were somewhat poorly supplied, but that there was sufficient supply to tide over the present needs. The prices of food grains continue to be steady though in the Bangalore City, the price of ragi shows a tendency to go down slightly. Mysore khaddi rice (new crop) is available in sufficient quantities in all the important centres and the price varies from Rs. 22 to Rs. 25 a palla.

Owing to the removal of inter-district restrictions in regard to the movement of rice in the Madras Presidency, the price of rice in the Delta Districts has gone up by Rs. 3 to Rs. 4 a palla and merchants are complaining that it is not possible to import delta rice, which can stand competition in the markets of Mysore with the local Mysore rice.

Burma rice, January allotment, has begun to come in and arrangements are being made to issue this rice to the Municipal Depots. Supplies to several districts have also been arranged with due regard to the indents received from the several Deputy Commissioners. The Kolar Gold Field has received a supply of 500 tons and a supply of 200 tons has been arranged for the Civil and Military Station of Bangalore. Supplies of Burma rice to the several Co-operative Societies, recommended by the Registrar have also been arranged to be made in the course of this week.

Four thousand tons of Burma rice, February allotment, have been purchased at Rangoon and intimation has been received that half this quantity has been shipped and has left Rangoon a couple of days back. The whole consignment is expected to be in Bangalore in the course of a fortnight. The price of this consignment is such that Burma rice could be sold here at not less than 5 seers a rupee.

The general situation remains unchanged.

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Chief Secretary to Government.